

## ***Senator Harry Kennedy***

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# Kennedy's Capitol Report

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## **Senator Harry Kennedy Introduces Funding Mechanism to Help Military Families**

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, this week introduced legislation establishing a state tax return check-off to help finance the recently created Missouri Military Family Relief Fund.

“Our military men and women perform a great service to the nation and its people,” Kennedy said. “This legislation shows our gratitude and pays back a portion of our indebtedness by creating a revenue stream to help spouses and children left to keep a comfortable home while a loved one is away on duty thousands of miles away.”

Kennedy's bill, SB 1336, would allow taxpayers expecting a state income tax refund to designate a dollar of the refund to go to the Missouri Military Relief Fund. Managed by the state's adjutant general, the monies from the fund are dispersed to the families of Missouri National Guard men and women called up to active duty as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

“A dollar is just the minimum check-off amount; any amount of a refund can be designated to the Military Family Relief Fund,” Kennedy noted. “Also, taxpayers not anticipating refunds can simply send in a separate check for a contribution to the fund with their returns.”

Kennedy's innovative funding stream is expected to post the same successes found in other existing check-off options on the Missouri state income tax form, such as the Children's Trust fund.

“A dollar by itself isn't necessarily a windfall,” Kennedy said. “But when you factor in the millions of compassionate and appreciative Missouri taxpayers across the state, our military families can rightly presume considerable economic assistance will be generated.”

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